THE PLEA, CASE, AND Humble Propoſals Of the *Truly-Loyal* and *Suffering* OFFICERS.

LONDON:

Printed for the *Truly-Loyal* and *Suffering* *OFFICERS*: March 30. 1663.

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To the Right Honourable the

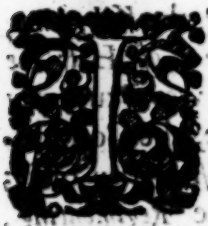
LORDS,

And to the Honourable the

COMMONS

Assembled in PARLIAMENT.

May it Please Your Honours,



T is not the King's *Party*, but His *Cause*, that lies now at your Feet: and the *Question* is Briefly but *This*: *Whether or no, from this time forward*, Loyalty *in an* Englishman *shall be Reputed a* Crime *or a* Virtue? Our Comfort is, that we have the *Authority* of the Nation, for our *Protection*; the *Justice* of it, for our *Judges*; the *Wisdom*, *Love*, and *Interest* of it, for our *Advocates*:

and *This Addreſs* is but an *Appeal* from the *Iniquity* of our *Oppreſſors*, to the *Pjety* of our *Governours*. We ſhall not trouble your Honours with Compleynts againſt a *General Corruption*; (how-*True*, and *Dangerous*-ſoever) but content our ſelves with a *Particular Caſe*; *wherein the Parties to this Paper are Peculiarly Concern'd, and only Relievable by Your Honourable Aid, and Authority*. Which Caſe, in ſhort, is This

There appear ſo many Pretenders to the *Sixty Thouſand Pounds*, &c. lately Granted by His Majeſty, at Your Honours Requeſt, for the Relief of the *Truly-Loyal*, and *Indigent Officers*, that without a ſtrict *Examination* of the *Certificates*, the *King*, the *Kingdome*, and the *Party*, will be *Deceiv'd of Half the Mony*. This Inconvenience was Prudently foreſeen by the Honourable, the Commiſſioners Appointed for the *Diſtribution* of it; who thereupon Directed the *Regimenting*, and *Printing* of the Certificates in Order to a *Review*: which Vote was no ſooner Paſt, but Preſently Hands were Gather'd to call for a *Preſent Dividend*; (Although as yet there were not above Five Thouſand Pounds

in

in the Treaſury) Some Honeſt Gentlemen were Drawn into This Petition, who now ſee Their Errour; and that the Scope of it was, by a Confuſion of all *Qualities*, and *Intereſts*, to Hinder a *Diſcovery*.

Thoſe *Interruptions* being at length *Remov'd*, and the *Book Perfected*, and *Printed*; by the Expreſs *Approbation* of His Sacred *Majeſty*; The *Licenſe* of a *Principal Secretary* of State; and the Unanimous *Allowance* of the *Commiſſioners* aforeſaid; We do moſt Humbly Crave leave to Acquaint Your Honours, that there is Great Induſtry ſtill Employ'd, to fruſtrate the Effects of it by *Diſgracing* the *Thing it ſelf*, and by *Haſtning a Diſtribution*, before we can Reap the Fruit of the *Intended Inſpection*: When yet The *Abuſe* is ſo *Groſs*, and *Palpable*, that not Any Man that has ever born Office in the King's Army, but can Point to the very *Particulars*, and ſay [*This Officer has been* dead *This Seven-year*. [*That never had any* Commiſſion. [*A Third never had any* Men. [*This left the Party and* Serv'd *the* Enemy, &c.] So that, finally, only Thoſe will be *Gainers* by a *Sudden Diſtribution*, that would be *Loſers*

by an *Inspection.* Nay, so Unfortunate we are, that it has been several times Refus'd us to Enter an *Advertisement* of This List into the *News-Book*, which is the only *Publique*, and *Common* way of *Notice.*

All These Crosse Circumstances put together, have driven us upon a Necessity of Saying Something to do our selves Right; and That's the only Scope of our *Plea*, *Case*, and *Proposals*, which, with all Dutiful Reverence, are the Subject of This *Dedication.* The *First* Part Conteyning our *Answers* to several *Objections*, touching the *Reason* of our Proceedings. The *Second* Part is Chiefly a Report of *Fact*, to Vindicate us in Point of *Modesty.* The *Third* Consists of Certain *Proposals*, which we rather commit to the Motions of *Providence* upon Your *Hearts*, then Presume in any Degree to *Presse* upon Your *Inclinations.* If we have Offended in Point of *Forme*, we are Ready, with all Dutyful *Submissions*, to *Acknowledge* our *Offence*: For Although the *Indignation*, to see our Selves *bought* and *sold* like *Slaves*, and *Practis'd* upon by every *Knight of the Post*, may Possibly Divert us from the Regular *Method*

of *Good Manners*; Yet, where the *Queſtion* is either *Duty* to Your *Authority*, or *Gratitude* to Your moſt Generous *Obligations*; we ſhall much rather Loſe the Remnant of our Miſerable *Lives*, then Fayle of any Proofe which may Demonſtrate the *Truly-Loyal* and *Suffering Officers*, to be of All Others

In the moſt Inviolable Bonds,
and Reſolves *of* Reverence,
and Obedience

At Your Honours Devotion

Robert Croft

In the Name of the Reſt.

The

The Epistle Dedicatory.

To the Right Honourable
and Right Reverend
and Obedience

The *Truly-Loyall*

OFFICERS

PLEA, &c.

THere is a Book lately Printed under This Title:

[*A Liſt of Officers Claiming to the Sixty Thouſand Pounds*, &c. *Granted by His Sacred Majeſty for the Relief of His Truly-Loyall and Indigent Party.*

Which Liſt is made Publique, by the Conſent, and at the deſire of the Honourable the Commiſſioners Appointed by Act of Parliament for Diſtribution of the ſaid Moneys.] To which muſt be added, that This Liſt is *Publiſhed* by the *Kings Expreſs Allowance*, and *Licenſed* by His Majeſtie's *Chief Secretary of State.*

It will now ſeem *Needleſs*, perhaps, or *worſe*, To plead the Cauſe of an Act, Executed by ſo *Ample*, *Solemn*, and *Unqueſtionable Authority*; unleſs we firſt acquaint the World, that, notwithſtanding This *Authority*, great Endeavours are Uſed, to Blaſt, and Diſcredit the Proceeding: Every Stationer's Shop being Buzz'd with Arguments againſt the Thing: moſtly (as in Charity we believe) out of *Miſtake*,

or *Misinformation*; but not a little also, out of *Project*, and *Designe*; for, *there are very many Persons, whose Interest it is to Suppress the List, as the Evidence and Story of their Own Crimes:* Whereas, on the Other side, it is as much the Behoof of the *Truly-Loyall* to *Promote* the *Ends* of This Book, as it is, for the Benefit of their *Opposers* to *Destroy* the *Fruits* of it: Since not only the *Reputation*, and *Well-being* of the *Party*, but the *Cause* it Self lies at Stake, and (to speak with Reverence, and Modesty) the *Honour* and *Safety* both of the *King*, and *Kingdom*, are Concern'd in the Consequence of This Miscarriage. The Grounds of which Opinion, we shall as frankly submit to the Censure of *Others*, as we readily Engage against Their Objections to Acquit our *Selves*. Which Objections we shall Undertake in the first place: and They are (according to the best of our Enformation) in Summe, and Weight, as followes.

Object. 1. First; *The* Printed List *of Officers, Exposes the Royal-Party to have Their Throats Cut, in Case of an Insurrection, which was the Compounders Case in the dayes of the Committee of Safety, when upon Printing a List of Their Names, it was proposed, that the whole Party might be Massacred.*

Answ. 1. *First*; It is a *Change* upon the *King*, to suggest that His Party are in the same Danger *now*, under his Majestie's Protection, which they were *formerly* in, under the Persecutors of His Royal-Father.

Secondly; By the same Reason, All his Majestie's Loyal-Subjects, must either wear Vizors, or Hide

 their

their Heads, when the King's in Danger (for Men are better known by their *Faces*, than by their *Names*) and what Miſchief ſoever Threatens the *Royal-Party*, is but in order to the Deſtruction of the *King-Himſelf*.

Thirdly; The *Members* that *Voted* This Money, and the *Commiſſioners* that are to *Diſtribute* it, All *Their Names* are *Printed*; and where's the Greater Hazzard of Printing *Their Names* too that are to *Receive* it?

Obj. 2. IT *is a* Diſhonour *for ſo many Perſons of Quality to be* Publiſht *for* Indigent: *beſides the Inconvenience of being Laid open to their* Creditors, *and the loſſe of other* Preferments, *by being known to be* Neceſſitous.

Anſw. 2. FIrſt; The very Act require that They be *Publiquely Certify'd*, and *Publiquely Regiſtred* as *Perſons that have not a ſufficient Livelyhood*; ſo that as to the Point of *Publiſhing* Their Indigency, the Thing is done Already.

Secondly; Touching the ſuppos'd *Diſhonour* of being *known* to be *Poor*, let it be conſider'd, That every Mans *Loyalty* and his *Poverty* are Recorded *together*: and certainly, no Perſon of *Honour* will Think it any *ſhame*, to Proclaim to the world, that *He has ſpent his Fortunes in the Service of a Prince, that laid down his Life for the Preſervation of His People.*

Another Branch of This Objection is, concerning the *Conſequence* of appearing *Neceſſitous*; which, in This Particular, we are ſo far from *fearing*, that

we Reckon the *Enlisting* of our Names upon a *Publique Roll*, to be the only *Secure* and *Honourable* way of *Redemption*, whereof our Condition is Capable.

First, as to our *Creditors*; our fair, and warrantable Debts, do, by such a Record, become virtually the *Debts* of the Nation; and they are Effectually so Acknowledged, both by the *King*, and *Kingdom*, in the late Act of Parliament, where it is Declar'd, **for the Perpetual Memory of the Eminent Deservings of the Loyal Party, and for the Encouragement of Loyalty to future Ages, that Their great** Services **and** Sufferings **exceed all possibility of** present Compensation, **from a Kingdom Exhausted by the Rapine and Oppression of a long Rebellion.**] From whence it appears, that *Our Necessities* are but Dependent upon the *Necessities* of the *Publique*. Shall the *Kings Party* now be Asham'd to Publish *Their* Wants, when His Sacred Majesty is Content to Confess His *Own*? or, What better Security can our *Creditours*, either *Wish*, or *Expect*, than to find us Recommended (as in another place we are) **to future Employment and further Reward**? (which will Enable us to satisfie them). And This Recommendation will be most Solemn, and Effectual, upon a *Publique* and *Inspected List*: Whereas, otherwise, for the *shadow* of a *Reputative Disgrace*, we quit the *substance* of a *lasting*, and *monumental Honour*: Concealing our *Disease*, out of a scruple at the *Remedy*; till at last, *we Perish One by One, unknown*; and *the whole Party* sinks by degrees, into a Condition both *Wretched*, and *Ridiculous*.

Again

Again; that the Printing of our Names, should be any Hinderance to our *Preferments* (without the greatest Indignity possible to his Majesty) is the Thing we cannot upon any Terms either Admit, or Comprehend.

If we Consider the *Party*, take their Character in the Preamble to the late Act for their Relief. It is *That Loyal Party*, **Which though all Hazzards and Extremities in the Defence of the Kings Person, Crown, and Dignity, the Rights and Priviledges of Parliament, the Religion, Lawes, and Honour of the English Nation, did bear Armes by the Command of His Late Majesty of ever Blessed Memory, according to their Duty, and the known Lawes of this Land, and did with an Unwearied Courage, Faith, and Constancy with their Lives and Fortunes, Oppose that Barbarous Rebellion raised against his Most Excellent Majesty, in the year 1642.** — *That Loyal Party*, **Which after the Horrid Murther of Their late Glorious King with the same Vigorous and Active Loyalty asserted the Rights and Interests of his Royal Successor, and with the same Restless Zeal Oppos'd all succeeding Usurpations, untill His Sacred Majesty Return'd to Peace and Triumph,** &c. Will it hinder any Mans *Preferment* now to have his Name affixt to This Character? Where's the *Gratitude*, and *Justice* of the Nation? If Those Persons that have Ruin'd Themselves in the Service of the Publique, shall fare the worse for being known to have done their Duties?

Where's the *Wisdome* of the Nation, if it be rendred more Beneficial to *subvert* the Government, than to *uphold* it; and if the Reward of Struggling with all Hazzards, and Misfortunes, to preserve the Lawes, must be either *Reproche*, or losse of *Preferment*, to such as shall appear to have been undone in the Conteſt? Lastly; Where's the *Faith*, and *Honour* of the Nation; if, after a Parliamentary Declaration for **the Encouragement of Loyalty**, People should speed the worse, for being Published to have been the Eminent and Miserable Assertours of it? So that the *Community* is cleerly *Of* us, *With* us, and *For* us. Wee'll now Advance our Argument a little higher.

Shall we lose our *Hopes*, and *Preferments*, if we be once known to be *Poor*, upon so *Publique*, and *Noble* an Accompt? This Objection vanishes for ever, when we Reply, that *The King is the Fountain of all Considerable Honours, and Preferments*; and that *He is a Pious, a Prudent, a Just, and a Gratious Prince?* What is our Unhappiness even at this Instant, but the want of such a *Roll* as is now the Question? We do not speak of a *List* of *Enquiry*, which is only Previous to *Another*, and serves but to Discriminate the *Right* and *Wrong*; but of a *Try'd* and *Examined List* of such Officers as have stood the utmost Test of Misery, and Persecution. Nor is this any new Thing:

Ro. Parl. 11 H. 6. m. 6. *Forasmuch as there be many Old Servants, and feeble; that have Dispended their Youth in the service of my Lords, my Grandfather, Father, and*

and Brother, whose soul God assoile; and also with my Lord that now is, whom God given good life and long, some without any Livelyhood or Guerdon; so that they be now in great Mischief, and Necessity, and some but easily Guerdoned, and nought like to their Desert and Service: Wherefore I desire that there may be a BOOK made of all the NAMES of such as have so Served, and been Unguerdoned, or nought Guerdoned like to their Desert, to the Intent, when Offices, and Corodies fall, that they might be given to such Persons; they having Consideration to the Ability of them, and to the time that they have served, in the same wise as of Benefices to Clerks.

Henry *the Fourth of* France, *did for the Relief of such as had been* Maimed, Wounded, *or* Begger'd *in his Service, Grant by an* Irrevocable

EDICT.

The Royal House of Christian Charity, and the Money growing upon the Remainder of Accompts of Hospitals, Almes-Houses, Leprous-Houses, and other such Companies, and of the Usurpations, and Alienations of the Revenues thereof, Revisions of the Accompts, and Abuses

Edict July 7. 1606. *Jean de Serres* Hist. Franc. pag. 1218.

and

and Disorders committed in the Government, and Administration of the said Places, together with the Money which should arise of the Places, and Pensions of Religious Laymen, in every Abby and Priory of his Realm, being in his Majesties Nomination.

The Consideration of the *Horse* was referred to the Duke of *Northumberland*; and of the *Foot*, to the Duke of *Espernon*, who were to make a *List* of the Persons, and to note in the Margin what Annual Pensions every man might merit, according to his *Quality*, *Valour*, and *Wounds*.

Was a *List* of the *Truly-Loyal*, and *Indigent-Subjects* of the *Kings Progenitors* thought so *necessary*, and *Beneficial* to *Them*; and is it not much more Expedient for the *Subjects* of His Sacred Majesty now in *Being*? To suppose that ever any Prince had more *Tenderness* and Mercy in his *Inclination*, were to Blaspheme the greatest *Goodness* in Nature: and on the *other* side, Malice it self will not pretend, that ever any Subjects made it more appear, that Their *Duties* and their *Souls* were *Inseparable*, than That Party which are the present Matter in Question. So that, in Fine, *We want nothing in the world, but a List of our Names, in the Kings view, to do our business.*

Shall his Majesty but vouchsafe barely to look upon us in our *Misfortunes*? we have His Natural *Clemency* to Plead for us. But when it shall descend to Consider, that even *These Rags* had the

Honour

Honour to Contribute somewhat toward His due Establishment, *and* Glory; His Royall *Justice* will not (with Reverence) Permit Him, having reliev'd, and fixt all *other* Interests, to suffer *ours* alone to lye *Disconsolate* and *Hopeless*.

Does the King need *Loyal Officers?* Such a *List* as we propose, furnishes His Majesty with Those that want *Employments*; and, Whom will his Royal *Wisdom* rather trust, than such as with their Lives and Fortunes, *first* serv'd his *Royal Father*, till they were Commanded to *Render* and *Disband*; and after *That*, with a Fidelity Inviolable, Press'd through all *Hazards* and *Temptations*, untill the settlement of His Sacred Majesty in His undoubted Birth-Right. In short, upon the whole Matter, it is Impossible for us to be in His Majesties *Eye*, and not in His *Care*. But there is Another Objection, that

IT would Reflect upon the King, to have it known, that so many Loyal Officers are left without a Livelyhood. Object. 3.

IF it would *Reflect* upon the King, to have it known that *we are left without a Livelyhood*; It will do his Majesty *Right*, to make it known that we are *provided for*; and a *Printed Roll* of *Their Names* to whom the King has already *Granted something*, and *Promis'd more*, is a Publique Evidence both of His *Majesties Present Grace* and *Favour*, and of his further *Bountifull* Intentions. *Answ.* 3.

Again, To that part of the Objection, that so many are left *unconsider'd*, *A Printed List will Lessen the Number*.

3ly *Without* a Printed List, *Our Distress* will be Imputed to the *King*, though it be our *own Fault*; for his Majesty is not Oblig'd to take notice of our Particular Necessities by *Divination*.

Object. 4. *Most of the Commissioners are Parliament-men, and the Publishing of this List is in a manner to Arraign the House of Commons, for having Certifi'd so many unwarrantable Persons.*

Answ. 4. THere's a Great Difference betwixt Members of the House in a *Committee* of Parliament, and Members of the House Joyned in Commission with Others by *Act* of Parliament; where they sit, not as *Members*, but as *Commissioners*. But to something that's more Pertinent.

Let it be Noted, that the Commissioners are directed to Certifie, as the Matter *appears* to Them; and *according to the best of their Knowledge*: which *Certification* amounts to no more, (unless they speak upon a positive *Averrment*) than *the Recommending of an Officer upon a Credible Information*; wherein there is neither required a *Certainty* of the *Thing*, nor an *Infallibility* in the *Person*. So that the Crime lyes Evidently in the Fraud of That Report, whereupon each Respective Certificate was obtein'd; and without any colour of Reflection upon the Commissioner that Granted the Certificate. (for 'tis no *Dishonour* to be *Deceiv'd*, where 'tis *Impossible* to be *Certain*.)

Again, since to be *Deceivable*, is but to be a *Man*; it can be no *Fault*, or *Shame* to be *Mistaken*. What will the Objector say now to his Own Argument;

ment, when he perceives the Point of it turn'd upon Himself? 'Tis ſuggeſted that, *A Printed Liſt aſperſes the Houſe of Commons*; and yet 'tis manifeſt, (ſince Miſtakes go for nothing) that no Reproche can ariſe from This Matter, to the Diſadvantage of Any Man, which is not Grounded upon Expreſs *Confederacy*, and *Practice*.

We have ſaid already what we conceive needfull, as to our Opponent's *General* Objections; but there are ſome *Particulars* yet behind, which we cannot conveniently let paſs without a *Reply*: and They concern, Firſt, (in the Liſt it ſelf) the *Perſon* that *Compos'd* it; and, in the *Next* Place, Thoſe *Officers* for whoſe Benefit, He has given Himſelf That Trouble.

Touching the *Book*, 'tis Whiſper'd and Fomented that, *There are many Officers left out, and Miſrepreſented*; that, *The Method of it is not clear*; and in ſhort, that, *The whole Thing is Ineffectual*. To which we Anſwer.

Firſt, that we do not hear of any man left out, beſide Thoſe mention'd in the *Errata*, ſave only (by the Clerks Fault in the laſt Tranſcript) *Colonel WILLIAM HAWLY, a Colonel of Foot under the Marqueſſe of Newcaſtle*; which Overſight, the Gentleman that Diſpos'd the Papers, Acknowledges with great Reſpect to that worthy Perſon: But ſo, as taking upon Himſelf only the *Order* of the *Copy*, without undertaking for the *Corrector* of the *Preſſe*. 'Tis True, there are many *Field-Officers* wanting, which ſome People are willing ſhould be underſtood not only as a *Defect* in the *Book*, but

as an utter *Exclusion* to Those that are *left out*: Whereas the Truth is This; The *Officers* are to be *Try'd* by Their *Certificates*; and this Printed List is Only to shew Them in their *Counties*, *Qualities*, and *Regiments*, for the more *ease* and *open Inspection*.

It will be fit likewise to Clear the other Mistake concerning the *Field-Officers* that are Omitted; to whom it may be Given to understand, that *the Last Allowance for the Press did precisely Prohibit the Printing of any Field-Officers, but such as should desire it.* Whereupon, a Matter of a Hundred Gentlemen (being at that time about, or near the Town, and taking Notice of That Order) Enter'd Their Names, and are Printed accordingly.

To the *second* Exception, Concerning *Mistakes* in the *Press*; They are not much vers'd in *Books*, that look for none; Especially in a Copy of This Nature; where there is neither *Reason*, nor *Coherence* to Guide the *Compositor*; and where, withall, there is scarce any one word that is not of a Nice, and Particular Import: to which must be added, the Confusion, and Errours of the Papers whence This List was Extracted; together with the Intricacy of the Thing it self, and the necessary Hast in the Dispatch of it. Nor must it be forgotten, that *very many of the Original Certificates are Interlin'd*, and with *a Differing Hand*, and *Ink*, from that which wrote the Body of them (which may fairly enough be presum'd to have been done since the signing, and sealing.) These Circumstances duly Consider'd, it is no wonder to find some Mistakes, and yet (saving those which are Corrected in the *Errata*) we meet with few or none Material, that we can Charge upon the Transcript.

Touching the *Obscurity* of the *Method*; It will

Suffice

ſuffice that any man that can but Read, may Enform Himſelf in the *Advertiſement*: and that in the *Alphabet* of the *Book*, He is to look for the *Regiment* he deſires, as the *Table* directs him to the *Certify'd Officer*.

The Laſt Exception is, that *The Liſt is Ineffectual*; which is confuted by a *Demonſtration* of the *Contrary*, in the *Diſcovery* it has already produc'd.

In the Next Place, to the *Folly* of this *Liſt*, comes to be ſuggeſted the *Malice* of it; and That, without any Regard at all to Thoſe Powers, that have both Approv'd and Authoriz'd it. It is Point-blank Affirm'd, that *This Liſt is only His Deſign that put it together, to caſt an* Odium *upon the King, and to work Himſelf into a Faction*. Concerning which, the Gentleman Himſelf has Conjur'd Us, not to put on ſo much as a ſerious Look, upon ſo Innocent a Scandal: wherefore we let that Queſtion fall, touching *His Particular*. But the Brand of *Faction* upon the *Generality* of the *Truly-Loyal* and *ſuffering Party*; the Charge of *Mutiny*, and *Diſobedience to the Authority of Parliament*: (for This is the Language that we are of late accuſtom'd to; if we but Modeſtly ſollicit and endeavour, that the Bounty which His Majeſty Only Intended for His *Friends*, may not be divided amongſt His *Enemies*) ——— Theſe are Imputations which we cannot but in *Honour* take Notice of, ſo far as Conſiſts with our Duty to the *King*, and to the *Law*; and rather than paſs *That Limit*, we ſhall not Refuſe to Lay our *Necks*, at the *Feet*, even of our *Meaneſt*, and *Unkindeſt Adverſaries*; with which *Caution* and *Modeſty* before us, we ſhall now Proceed to a Brief State of our *Caſe*.

The Case.

SO soon as His Sacred Majesty had Past the Two Bills for the Relief of His *Truly-Loyal* and *Indigent Party*, and *Prorogued the Parliament*, The Commissioners Appointed by Act of Parliament, for the *Menage* and *Distribution* of That Bounty, Apply'd Themselves with all Care, and Diligence, to the Advancement, and dispatch of That Affair. Particularly, the Honourable *the Commissioners sitting in the Star-Chamber* (by Virtue of the Aforesaid Act, and to the Ends aforesaid) Observing, and being Enform'd, that *Diverse Certificates* were *artificially Introduc'd*, and that many other *Practices*, and *Forgeries* had been *Attempted* upon the Commissioners, found it Convenient to make use of a Certain Number of select Officers, of known Integrity, and of General Acquaintance in His Late Majestie's Armies, to Assist them in the discovery of *Unqualify'd Pretenders*; which Officers, being both Nominated, and Empower'd by the said Commissioners, did accordingly Assemble and Proceed in Form, and under the Name of *a Committee for Inspections*: Which Committee being afterward *dissolv'd*, and Their *Proceedings Vacated*; It will not be Incongruous either to *Order*, or *Good Manners*, if for the clearing of our Cause, we touch upon some Passages Then and There in Debate.

This Committee was by its Constitution to Consist

fit of a Chosen Number of Commission-Officers Additional to as many Commissioners of Parliament as should think fit to be There. Their Power was only Preparatory, and their first Order was to Consider of a *Method to prevent the passing of undue Certificates; and to Report their Proceedings therein upon the* Tuesday *following to the Star-Chamber*. Instead of Framing This *Method* (which in Course was the first thing should have been done) some Considerable time was spent upon *Certificates*; effectually, without any *Method* at all, save only that the *Colonels* were to be *first*, and the *Rest* to follow in their *Turns*; and *All* to be put to a present Vote, Whether they should *Stand* or *Fall*. This manner of Proceeding begat many *Heats*, *Disorders*, and *Delays*, for want of an Impartial *Rule*, whereby to Judge of every Man according to his Respective *Claims*, and *Qualification*: till in the End, *Experiment* and *Prudence* mov'd the Gentlemen to Consider of a *Certain Standard*, that should determine all Niceties in *Question*: which was no sooner Agreed upon but it was Regularly submitted, and Reported to the Star-Chamber, Consisting in substance of These Particulars following.

He that has not **Any way deserted his Loyalty and Duty to the Late King, or his present Maiesty in Their Wars** (which are the words of the Act,) or (as in another Place) that **has serv'd the Late King, and his present Maiesty through the whole Course of the Late Wars**; — That Person is within the Meaning of [*Truly-Loyal*.]

The Standard for [*Indigence*,] was *Four hundred Pound* (in proportion to an *Annuity* of *Fifty* or *Threescore*.)

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A Reall Command for a Colonel of Horse, was stated at *Two-Hundred*; for a *Captain*, at *Thirty* Horse. For a *Colonel* of *Foot*, at *Three-Hundred* men; for a *Captain*, at *Forty*. They offer'd likewise, what Officers they conceiv'd to have a *Reall Command* of Soldiers *according to their Commission*; and propos'd a *Regimental Order*, as the aptest *Method*, in their Opinion, for *Inspection*.

While Matters were in Motion toward this hopefull Period, there Interven'd *another Question* not to be omitted, and it was occasion'd by somewhat that fell from the Lips of a worthy Gentleman (having at that time the Chaire) which was, that *There were Seaven Thousand and Five-Hundred Officers Certify'd*, upon which Computation (Reckoning Those that are probably *Dead* since --46, and Those that are known to have *Deserted*, together with Those that *do not Claim*) the late King must be supposed to have lost his Crown at the Head of above *Twelve-Hundred Thousand* men. The Effects which This Overture wrought upon the *Truly-Loyal*, and *Suffering* Party (especially proceeding from a Person that spake with *Authority*, and upon *Knowledge*) were no other, than as so many Lines drawn to a Point; Every man pressing (though with various Reasons) to the same end [PRINTING,] as the only means to Purge and Reduce that Prodigious List; and which way soever they lookt, they met with Arguments, both of *Honour*, and of *Necessity* to Perfue it; and still the more narrowly they Consider'd, the more forcible they found those Arguments. The Case They Reason'd Thus:

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THe *Kingdom* has presented His *Majesty*, and His *Majesty* has, at their Request, Gratiously Bestow'd upon His *Truly-Loyal*, and *suffering Officers*, a Considerable Sum of Money, with an Express Limitation of it, to the Use and Behoof of such Persons. Shall *Cromwell's Guards now be* Admitted to the *Reward*, and *Character of Loyalty*? or shall His Majestie's *Bounty*, that was directed singly to His *Dutiful Servants*, be Apply'd in Common to the *Murtherers* of His *Father*? Shall *Treason*, and *Loyalty*, be supported by the same Hand? Or shall Those Gentlemen that ever Valu'd Their Honours before Their Lives be subjected now at Last to mingle Their Names with men of Desperate and Infamous Forfeitures? And yet all This must be done without a strict Examination of This Blended List. Upon the whole, The King's *Intentions are Frustrated*, His *Charity Misemploy'd*, His Loyal *Servants Defrauded*, His *Enemies Supply'd*, *Loyalty* is *Dishearten'd*, and *Disobedience Encourag'd*: beside the *Profusion* of the *Publique Treasure*; the *Hazzard* of His Majesty taking His *Enemies*, for His *Friends*; and finally, beside the *sad Consequence of Condemning a Party that has been Loyal beyond all President, to be Miserable beyond all Example* (which must needs follow upon the Admittance of so many Sharers to This Money.)

To these Arguments (in Order to the *Press*) It was Reply'd, that *the King had Positively declar'd Himself against it.* Whereupon, (in Confidence that if so it were, it proceeded only from a Misrepresentation of the Thing) The Gentlemen drew up their *Reasons*, and Tender'd Them to the *Star-*

Chamber, with their *desires, that his Majestie's Pleasure might be more Particularly besought concerning That Matter.* Upon which they past a Vote, and a Person of Eminent Honour and Modesty, Attended the King with the Humble Request of the Commissioners; to whom, upon the first Overture, His Majesty was pleased to express Himself, that *there was much to be said* both for, *and against it*; Demanding withall, *What Number the Certificates might amount to?* It was Answer'd, that *They were Reputed to be about Six or Seven Thousand.* Whereupon, His Majesty Replyed, that *It must needs be a great Abuse then*; *and that it would be so much Money thrown away, if it came to be divided into so many shares*; in the Conclusion, remitting the Business wholly to the Commissioners. Upon the Report of which Gratious Return, the Honourable the Commissioners past a *Vote* for the *Print*, and soon after, *Another* for the *Method*, and *Two more* after That, the *One* in Allowance of the *Book*, and the *Other* of the *Preface*, wherewith His Majesty was again Acquainted and Approv'd it.

So that at length, by the Mediation of all honourable Aids, Agreements, and Authorities, we are possest of the List; which we find, as we Expected; (save that *it falls nigh Two-Thousand short of the first Computation*) In This List, we meet with Diverse Officers that have been long *Dead*; *several* that *never* serv'd the King *at all*; others that *left*, and fought *against* Him. Beyond These *Grost Abuses* we do not presume to Meddle; and *These are a sort of People, with Whom we should be very loth to*

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appear in the same Livery. Concerning *Commission-Officers within the Act*: what shall be Reputed a *sufficient Livelyhood*; what a *Desertion*; or what Measure Those Persons are to receive, that claim to a *Higher Command* then in strictness they Executed: Touching These Particulars, we Interpose no further then in *our wishes, that there may be no Point strain'd, to the Disadvantage of any Man that has faithfully, and Honourably serv'd His Majesty*: for *it is not our desire to augment our Particular Shares, by Grating upon our Fellows*, but rather (so far as Consists with the most Favourable sense of the Act,) *that all such as joyn'd, and Continued, in the same Cause, and Service*, may likewise be *Joyn'd, and Consider'd in the Reward.* Within This Compass we Reckon it our Duty to Contain our selves; and thankfully to acknowledge the *Prudence, Justice, Tenderness*, and *unwearied Pains* of Those Honourable Persons, who are *Commissioned* for our Relief; by the Benefit of whose Favours, being now brought within View of what we have so long, and so earnestly desir'd; we find at last *Another Scruple* Injected; Which is; that *All Certificates sign'd by Five Commissioners at a Publique Meeting, are Concluding*; which Nicety is Principally Urg'd by such as have no other Title to the Benefit of the Act; and the Delicacy of it Rests upon the Construction of the word [*TRUE*] **[according to the Number of such** *TRUE* **Certificates]** which [*TRUE*] if understood, Only as Oppos'd to *COUNTERFEIT*, there may be still a *True Certificate*, though of a *False Matter.*

This Opinion will not sink into Us for *many Rea-*

which we ſhall only Offer, with ſubmiſſion to *Better*.

Firſt, we conceive the *Commiſsioners* Nominated in This Act (and ſitting in the *Star-Chamber*) to be the Competent and Proper *Judges* of the *Meaning* of it; and we have the Honour of *Their Practice* for *Our Authority*. As for Inſtance; It is put to the Vote, *what Officers* ſhould be Reputed *Commiſsion-Officers within the Act*, and which *not*? How come the Commiſſioners in the *Star-Chamber* now to be *Judges* of *That Qualification*, more then of the *Reſt*? That the *Perſon Certify'd* be a *Commiſsion-Officer*, and that *being* a Commiſſion-Officer, He be likewiſe *Truly-Loyal*, and *Indigent*, are *Conditions Equally Requiſite*, by the Letter of the Act: and *Five Commiſsioner's Hands* can no more Conclude a *Revolted Captain* to be *Truly-Loyal*, then they can Authorize an *Armourer* to be a *Commiſsion-Officer*; which being *over-Rul'd* in the *one*, holds every jot as ſtrong in the *other*.

Further; In the *Præface* to This newly Printed Liſt, the Honourable Commiſſioners have Expreſly *Promis'd*, and *Invited* an *Inſpection*: that is, an Inſpection of *Perſons*, rather than of *Certificates*; for which Expreſs Reaſon They are rather Enter'd in *Regiments*, than in *Counties*.

Again; *The Concluſiveneſs of Five Hands at a Publique-Meeting* Engages the Act in a *Contradiction:* (and we have heard that *an Act* Repugnant to it ſelf, is ſo far void) The Diſtribution *Made* according to the *Certificate*, Contradicts the Diſtribution *Requir'd* according to the *Act*.

To This, 'tis Urg'd, that *the Certificate is an Act Executed*, and that *though the Body of the Commiſsioners*

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owers cannot totally Reſcind ſuch a Certificate, they may yet ſuſpend the Iſſuing of the Mony.

We Reply; that if the *Diſtribution* were *an Act Executed* too; ſuch a *Certificate* were much a Better Plea, for a *Miſtake Unforeſeen*, and *paſt Prevention*, than it would be in This Caſe; where, upon Proof, the *Perſon* that *demands* the Mony, is but the *Counterfeit* of the *Perſon* that ought to *Receive* it. Again; may they *ſuſpend* the diſtribution *after* the Mony is due, and not as well *Refuſe it utterly* where it can *never* be due? If it be *due*, they are to *Pay* it at firſt; if it be *not due*, they are to *Refuſe* it: for *delay* will not make it *more due*, and the Reaſon of *ſtopping* it for a *moment*, holds for *ever*. So that if they can neither *Reject* the Perſon becauſe of the *Certificate*, nor *Allow* of Him becauſe of the *Act*; the Mony muſt *Eternally* Reſt where it *is*, and *never* come to a *Diſtribution*.

It may be alſo Conſider'd, that the Caſe is *Clear* concerning the Perſons, and *doubtful* touching the *Certificates*.

But Wee'll ſuppoſe more Force in the Objection then perchance there is, and that in *Extremity* [*ſuch TRUE Certificates*] may be ſo Render'd, as to bear it. See now how *Many Reaſons*, and how *Weighty*, what *Troops* of *Inconveniences* appear Againſt the *Colour of* That *ſingle Argument*.

There's *firſt*, The *Ground* of the Act, [*a Conſideration of ſervices done to the Kingdom*] There's Next The *Scope* of the Act; [*The Honour and Relief of That Loyal Party that did Thoſe Services.*] *Thirdly*, The *Political Prudence* of it [*for the Encouragement of Loyalty to Future Ages.*] *Fourthly*, The ſin-

gular Care of *Applying* That Bounty *aright*: [*The Threescore Thousand Pounds must be distributed among Persons precisely so and so Qualify'd*]. To Conclude, All These *Clear* and *Noble Ends* must be *disappointed*; The King's *Favours* scatter'd among His *Enemies*; The Honourable *Intentions* of the *Parliament Frustrated*; and the *Bread* Taken out of the Mouths of *Honest Men*, and Given to *Another sort* of People; in favour of *one dubious word*; Notwithstanding above *Twenty Positive*, and *Explicit Declarations* in the same Act to the Contrary.

We do not undertake to be *Magisterial* in This Opinion; but we trust that for the General Good and Honour of the King's Party, no Other Persons shall be Knowingly Admitted to this Dividend; and we hope likewise that in some Other Cases, no Person duly Qualify'd shall be shut out by the strictness of the Act, to whom Manifestly the Fruit and Grace of it was Intended.

Touching the *Reason*, and *Modesty* of our Proceedings, enough is said (as we presume) to Acquit Us either of direct *Folly*, or *Faction*, we shall now lay down certain *Humble Proposals suitable* to the Rest of our Actings.

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The Humble Propoſals *of the* Truly-Loyal *and* Suffering-Party.

THe *Two Points* wherein the *Truly-Loyal*, and *Suffering-Party* find Themſelves moſt ſenſibly aggriev'd (next to That Influence which Their Misfortunes may have upon the Nation) are their *Neceſſities*, and their *Honours*; for they would not willingly appear either *Ridiculous* to *the Age they Live in*, or *Infamous* to *Poſterity*.

Touching their *Wants*; They are as Great, as the Rapine, and Mercileſs Cruelty of a *Twenty-Years-Oppreſſion* has been able to make Them, and They are at Once (without Charging their Private Scores upon the Publique) both the *Memorials* of their Loyalty, and the *Puniſhment*. Briefly, *Such* They are, as His Sacred Majeſty, at the Requeſt of His Two Houſes of Parliament, has been Gratiouſly Pleas'd to Take into His Particular, and Princely Care, by a Late Act for their Preſent Relief; wherein their Modeſty Reſts ſo *Amply*, and ſo *Thankfully Satisfy'd*, that they do not ſo much as *Wiſh* for any *further Conſideration*, then what may Rationally ariſe from the *Improvement* of That *Grace*, and *Bounty*. Concerning which

It is their *Firſt* and *Humble Propoſal*, That the Liſt of Certify'd Officers may be *Inſpected*, and *Purg'd* (Allowing a Convenient time for the Work) before any *Diſtribution of Moneys*; and that an *Adver-*

Advertiſement of the *Printed Liſt*, and of the *Intent* of it, may be Publiſh'd in the *News-Book* (which has been already twice Refus'd) and *Copies* directed to the Reſpective *Commißioners*, of each ſeveral County, for the *Eaſe*, and *Diſpatch* of the *Diſcovery*.

The *Fruit* of This Inſpection will be, at leaſt, *the Doubling of every Mans ſhare*; beſide the ſaving of *Forty-Thouſand Pounds* to the *Publique*, and the Reducing of Thoſe Gentlemen, who are hitherto Unprovided for, into a *Number*, and *Condition* more capable of *Compenſation*.

The *Second Propoſal*, is This; That a Proviſion may be made as well for the *Benefit* of all Perſons clearly *within* the Meaning of the Act, as for the *Excluſion* of Thoſe that have *no Title* to it. As for Inſtance, There are *ſome Perſons* that have been Call'd away: either upon *His Majeſties Service*, or *Particular Buſineſs*; and committing the *Care* of their Certificates to *Private Friends*, they perceive, at laſt, that they are either *Miſcarry'd* or *Forgotten*.

There are *Others* likewiſe, That had *Empolyment ſufficient for a Livelyhood*, (when they ought to have Enter'd their Certificates, and therefore did not put in) who are now left Deſtitute, by the *Disbanding* (for Example) of thoſe Troupes which They *Then Commanded* (as in the Caſe of *Duynkirk*, &c.) --- Under Theſe Two Misfortunes are ſome very Worthy Officers Engag'd, that have an undoubted Right to the Equity of the Act.

There are a *Third* Sort of unhappy Perſons, whoſe Certificates are declar'd *Invalid* by the very *Letter* of

of the *Act*; be the Officers Clayme never ſo Unqueſtionable, upon all Honourable Accompts; and Theſe are ſuch as are Excluded, for want of *Five Commiſſioners Hands at a Publique Meeting*, to make their Certificates *Authentique*; which was not to be had in Thoſe Places, where either *the Commiſſioners did not Meet at all*, or *the Officer had no Notice of Their Meeting*: which Caſe (with the *Reſt*) is moſt humbly Recommended to a *Supplemental Act*; (if any Supplement ſhall be thought Neceſſary.)

A *Third Propoſal*, in order to the Effectual Clearing of This Liſt, is, That in Caſe any Commiſſioners ſhall be Appointed to Enquire into the Matter, they may be Empower'd to Examine Witneſſes upon *Oath*, for the *Credit* of the *Proofe*, and for the *Preventing* of *Frivolous Enformations*.

It is humbly Propos'd in the *Fourth* Place, That after a *thorow-Examination* of the *Certificates*, there may be a *Second Liſt* made of rhe *Names* of all ſuch *Truly-Loyall*, and *Indigent Officers*, as, are found *Allowable* according to the *Act*: This *Inſpect'd Liſt* to be Humbly Offer'd to His Sacred *Majeſty*; and His *Royall Favour* Implor'd on the behalf of the *Loyall Officers* therein conteyned; To the End; That being in His Majeſties Eye, They may lie the more open to Thoſe *Vacancies*, and *Employments* for the *future*, whereof

His Princely Goodneſs, ſhall vouchſafe to think them *Worthy*, and *Capable*.

Conſonant to the Reaſon of This Propoſal, is the Tenor of the Act, wherein the Lords and Commons have been Pleas'd to Declare their Purpoſe to Tranſmit **an Encouragement of Loyalty to future Ages.** Which *Encouragement* is in Part made Good already; to ſuch as Deſire to enter into *Hoſpitals*, or other *Charitable Foundations*; by **Requiring and Appointing that They Themſelves, their Widowes, and Children, may be Preferred before All Others, except the Founders Kindred.** And a further Proviſion is likewiſe Enacted by **a Rate upon Parithes, for the Truly-Loyal and Suffering Soldiers in General.** So that only *Thoſe Perſons of Quality* are left in *Diſtreſs* to whom it cannot be Suppos'd with *Juſtice* to the *Publique*, that theſe Allotments were ever Intended. Wherefore, as a Thing moſt ſuitable to the very *Profeſſion* and *Method* of the Act; It is with *Reverence*, and *Submiſſion* Propos'd, That ſomething may be done alſo by way of *Recommendation*, for *the Encouragement of the Loyal Nobility and Gentry*, that the *Event* of all their *Hazzards* and *Services*, may not ſeem to Terminate in an *Hoſpital*.

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To Paſſe now from matter of *Neceſsity*, to point of *Honour*. The Truly-Loyall and Indigent-Officers have but Theſe Two Things to Deſire.

First, That the *Liſt* may be exactly *Purg'd*, for the *Honour* both of the *Cauſe*, and of the *Party*.

Secondly, That upon Sifting the Certificates, what Perſons ſoever ſhall be found Guilty of *Forgery*, *Subornation*, or *Corruption*: They may be Subjected to ſuch *Puniſhment* as belongs to the Quality of the *Offence*.

THE END.